

Mayor's Message
October 2012

Why am I proud of our city? In late March 2012, a fire swept through the Wachs' home on Wasatch Street in Murray. The Murray City Fire Department quickly contained and then extinguished the blaze. As they went through the house, firemen found a dog that was unable to escape. Reacting swiftly, they revived the Wachs' family dog, which nearly died from smoke inhalation.

Murray's firefighters successfully stopped the fire before it engulfed surrounding homes, all while the Wachs family was saved. This is where the story possibly ends, but it is where Murray City begins to shine.

Putting out the fire was merely the first step. Cherished keepsakes were burned and other items, like the fragile doll's clothing that Mrs. Wachs had carefully sewn, were badly damaged by black, dense smoke. Most of the home was burned to a crisp, deemed uninhabitable and what remained was horribly damaged by fire, smoke and water.

Murray City businesses were an immense resource for the Wachs as their recovery began. Their family insurance agent, Randy Buchmiller, has operated in Murray for 31 years and remembers when the Wachs informed him of the fire.

"They lived close enough that they didn't call, they walked over to the State Farm office and when they came in, they smelled like smoke," Buchmiller recalls. "I found out what happened and I was able to write them a check for a hotel, some clothes and food."

The next step was rebuilding and when choosing a restoration firm, Buchmiller recommended based on reputation. The Wachs chose Class One Disaster Recovery which moved to Murray in September of 2004. Another respected business based here because the owner/founder Brent Bowthorpe knew what Murray offered.

"Murray is centrally located, and since 90 percent of our work is performed either along the I-15 corridor or on the east side of the valley, choosing Murray only made sense," said Bowthorpe. "Early on, I knew that being in Murray City would improve my business response time and allow Class One Disaster Recovery to flourish."

The various subcontractors that Class One Disaster Recovery chose such as Michael Rees who owns Murray City's Redpine Cabinetry, has lived in Murray for 15 years. A&P Cleaners, which immediately cleaned, then held onto all the Wachs clothing until the rebuild was completed, proved that being a Murray business means taking care of your neighbors. Within months, the home was not only rebuilt, but improved upon, and even Mrs. Wachs' treasured dolls were meticulously restored to original perfection.

These businesses and civil servants all had a hand in replacing, rebuilding and restoring the Wachs' lives. Everyone from the Murray City firefighters performing heroic feats, to the insurance agent who is within walking distance were utilized. From Murray-based companies like Class One Disaster Recovery, Redpine Cabinetry and the many sub-contractors that rebuilt the Wachs home, all these Murray-based businesses helped our neighbor.

Murray City does take care of its own. Since officially founded in 1903, our vibrant city has weathered the decades of change but still allows its residents to feel they are living within a city of people who care because they are literally our neighbors—yours and mine.

-Special thanks to Chance Cook for help with this article.